

AO

The Jumpstart on an Elite Career

High tech, complex cutting edge systems and computers.



Aviation Ordnancemen (AO) are aircraft armament (weapons) specialists in charge of storing, servicing, inspecting and handling of all types of weapons and ammunition carried on Navy aircraft.

These technicians may also volunteer to fly as Naval aircrew. Aircrew perform numerous in-flight duties and operate aircraft systems in turbojet, helicopter, or propeller aircraft. Aircrew earn additional pay for flying. (See the Aircrew Program for details.)

In addition AO's may also volunteer for programs such as SEAL Team or EOD. See (See the Special Warfare Program for details.)



What They Do

- Inspect, maintain and repair aircraft mechanical and electrical armament/ordnance systems
- Service aircraft guns and accessories
- Stow, assemble and load aviation ammunition including aerial mines, torpedoes, missiles and rockets
- Service bomb, missile and rocket releasing and launching devices
- Load supplementary munitions
- Assemble, test and maintain air-launched guided missiles
- Supervise operation of aviation ordnance shops, armories and stowage facilities

Credit Recommendations

The American Council on Education recommends that semester hour credits be awarded in the vocational certificate and lower-division bachelor's/associate's degree categories for applied science, applied mathematics and mechanical maintenance courses taken in this rating.

Qualifications and Interests

People in this rating should have above average competence with tools, equipment and machinery, possess manual dexterity and be physically fit, have skills in math and the ability to work well with others and function successfully as team members.

Record keeping is also very important. Other helpful qualities include the ability to do detailed work and perform repetitive tasks. **AOs must be U.S. citizens eligible for a security clearance. Normal hearing and color perception is required for this rating.**

Working Environment

AOs perform their duties at sea on flight decks and ashore in hangars, on flight lines at air stations, or in shops under various environmental conditions. They work closely with others, do mostly physical work and require little supervision.

Opportunities

Approximately 6,900 men and women now work in the AO rating. Opportunities for placement are good.

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Career Path After Recruit Training

Enlistees are taught the fundamentals of this rating through on-the-job training or formal Navy schooling. Operational training is available in this rating during later stages of career development.

| School | Present Location | Approximate Training Time | Subjects | Training Methods |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| Class "A" Technical School | NTTC Pensacola, FL. | Approximately 4 Weeks | Aviation basic theory and basic skills required for rating and electronics troubleshooting | Group instruction, classroom and shop After completion of Core "A" school, AOs attend either a two-week ship's company strand course or a three-week airwing strand course depending on the type duty assigned. |

AOs may be assigned to aviation squadrons, aircraft carriers or to other Navy ships carrying aircraft, to naval air stations or other aviation shore facilities in the United States or overseas. During a 20-year period in the Navy, AOs spend about 60 percent of their time assigned to fleet units and 40 percent to shore stations.

All personnel now receive sea pay at sea (E-1 to E-9).

Related Civilian Jobs—Dept. of Labor Dictionary of Occupational Titles, No.

Magazine Supervisor (ammunition; explosives) 222.137-018

Magazine Keeper (clerical) 222.367-038

Aircraft Armament Mechanic 632.261-010

Gunsmith 632.281-010



Since Navy programs and courses are revised at times, the information contained on this rating card is subject to change.

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